

The Kangaroo Adventure

There it was again. Something was gently tickling Tanya's nose. "Leave me alone. It's Saturday morning and I want to sleep late," she mumbled as she rolled over on her side to get away from whatever was annoying her. The tickling continued so Tanya lazily opened one eye to see what it was. "Oh, it's just my tail," she thought to herself as she drifted back to sleep. "My WHAT?" her mind screamed as she bolted out of bed.

"I have to be dreaming! Little girls don't have tails," she thought in amazement as she looked behind her and saw a long tail. She glanced down and noticed two huge chestnut colored feet. Next, she reached up and touched two pointed ears. "Oh, no! What could be happening to me?" she wondered.

Tanya ran into the bathroom and peeked into the mirror. Her reflection was no longer that of a little girl. Staring back at her was the face of a KANGAROO! Somehow during the night, a nightmare had happened. She had been turned into a *kangaroo*!

"This can't be happening!" Tanya thought, as she was worrying about what to do next. Her stomach grumbled and she realized that she was hungry. Figuring that she should take care of the most important things first, she decided to search for some food, then think of a plan.

Tanya knew that she could not go into the kitchen looking like this, her mom would have a major fit! Fortunately for her, she had learned all about kangaroos in school and she knew just what kangaroos ate. So she climbed out of her window and hopped over to a field to look for some roots and grass for breakfast.



Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3
LA.E.1.2.2 Plot/Conflict Form B

As Tanya bounced along, she thought longingly of the mouth-watering pancakes and syrup her mom would be cooking for her right now. Somehow roots and grass did not sound so appetizing after that, even if it was kangaroo-food. So she decided to skip breakfast for now and think of a better plan.

Tanya began to concentrate on how to get back to normal, then maybe she could think about eating. As she hopped along trying to figure out a solution to this dilemma, she suddenly tripped over a big root right in the middle of the path and fell, landing right on her head. Immediately she was knocked unconscious.

A few minutes later she felt a cool cloth on her forehead and heard her mother's comforting voice saying, "Are you okay, sweetheart? You have a very nasty bump on your forehead. You must have fallen out of bed during the night when you were having a bad dream." Tanya tried to tell her mom not to freak out and ask her how she was able to recognize her. She wanted to tell her how she had tripped over those clumsy kangaroo feet. But when she opened her eyes, she discovered that she was laying on the floor next to her own bed in her own room. She looked for her tail, but it was gone! She had her own hands and her own feet.

She was no longer a kangaroo! She was just a hungry little girl with a sore head, still clutching her favorite stuffed animal in her left hand – Kimmy Kangaroo!

That was certainly the strangest dream Tanya ever had. It seemed so real. From now on, Tanya thought, I'm leaving Kimmy on my bookshelf at night. But you know, he almost seems to be winking at me...like he knows a secret that I don't. My dream couldn't have been real, could it? But I can't think about that now, I'm *starving*!

"Mom, what's for breakfast?" Tanya asked. "I hope you made pancakes, and lots of them. I'm really starving after that adventure!"

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Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the passage “The Kangaroo Adventure”, then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. What is Tanya’s BIGGEST problem in the story?
 - A. She fell out of bed and bumped her head.
 - B. She missed breakfast and was starving.
 - C. She tripped over a big root and fell down.
 - D. She thought that she was a kangaroo.

2. What happens AFTER Tanya dreamed that she climbed out of her window?
 - A. She noticed her long tail.
 - B. She peeked in her bathroom mirror.
 - C. She touched her two pointed ears.
 - D. She looked for roots and grass to eat.

3. Tanya decides to skip kangaroo-food because
 - A. roots and grass were unappetizing.
 - B. her head was very sore.
 - C. she freaked out when she was hopping.
 - D. she was knocked unconscious.

4. What is the FIRST event in the story that showed Tanya had a problem?
 - A. Tanya felt someone tickle her nose.
 - B. Tanya noticed she had a tail.
 - C. Tanya saw the face of a kangaroo.
 - D. Tanya noticed two large chestnut feet.

<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3 LA.E.1.2.2 Plot/Conflict Form B</p>
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5. How was Tanya's problem solved?
- A. She felt a cool cloth on her forehead.
 - B. She put Kimmy back on the bookshelf.
 - C. She ate pancakes and felt better.
 - D. She realized she'd had a strange dream.

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Answer Key – The Kangaroo Adventure

LA.E.1.2.2: The student identifies plot development or conflict resolution in a story and/or identifies how story events contribute to the plot development or conflict resolution. The student also makes simple inferences or draws conclusions regarding story elements.

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